

# Natural habitat restored at Rio Salado

## Pastor helped secure federal funds for revitalization

Years of work to restore the once-flowing Salt River in central Phoenix into an environmental and recreational amenity came to fruition recently at the opening and dedication of the Phoenix Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Project, announced U.S. Rep. Ed Pastor.

Pastor, who has been successful in securing millions of dollars in federal funding for the project, joined community members, the Army Corps of Engineers, and representatives from the city of Phoenix and Maricopa County in a recent event to mark the public opening of the project.

Trails are now open daily from sunrise to sunset along the Rio Salado from 19th Avenue to 16th Street. There is no charge to enjoy the trails and amenities in the 595-acre wildlife area with wetlands, native trees and animals.

Improvements will continue along 16th to 28th streets that will include an equestrian area.



**A Harris Hawk is released into the Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Project in central Phoenix as part of the event that marked the dedication and public opening of the revitalized area.**



**Phoenix Vice Mayor Mike Johnson, Congressman Pastor, Maricopa County Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox and Mayor Phil Gordon discuss the federal and local partnership and vision that led to the Rio Salado project.**



**Models of the Rio Salado Habitat Restoration project were on display to the public at the opening and dedication of the site.**

## Pastor recognized for work

U.S. Rep. Ed Pastor was recently recognized by numerous organizations for his work in Congress on behalf of his constituents.

Valle del Sol, Inc., a nonprofit organization in Phoenix recently awarded Pastor with a "Profiles of Success" award for his work in Congress on behalf of his constituents.

In a separate event, the Oncology Nursing Society gave Pastor the ONS Honor Award for his support in Congress of oncology nurses and people with cancer.

In addition, The Seniors Coalition gave Pastor the 2005 Vision Award for promoting policies that help those with visual impairments.

Rep. Pastor's wife and daughters recently accepted a "Profile of Success" award on the Congressman's behalf from representatives of the nonprofit Valle del Sol, Inc., who acknowledged his legislative work.

### How to contact Congressman Pastor

Congressman Ed Pastor's office is in your city to serve your needs.

Please keep this information handy to contact his offices for assistance.

Web Page (use site for electronic mail): <http://www.house.gov/pastor>

#### Washington Office

2465 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-0302  
Phone: (202) 225-4065

#### Phoenix District Office

411 N. Central Ave., Suite 150  
Phoenix, AZ 85004  
Phone: (602) 256-0551

**I ENCOURAGE YOU TO SEND MAIL ONLY TO MY PHOENIX DISTRICT OFFICE.**

Due to the threat of anthrax-contaminated mail delivered to the Capitol complex, all incoming letters to my Washington Office must be irradiated before delivery, resulting in a delay of at least three weeks. Feel free to send mail instead to my Phoenix District Office. Thanks.

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Congressman

**Ed Pastor**

**WASHINGTON REPORT**

**2005 Wrap-up**

**December 2005**

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CONGRESSMAN

**Ed Pastor**

**WASHINGTON REPORT**

**2005 Wrap-up**

**INSIDE**

- Water, transit projects
- Rio Salado public opening

Fourth Congressional District - Arizona

December 2005

## Budget priorities that help all Americans

Dear Fellow Arizonans:

As the end of the calendar year approaches, I have been working diligently in Congress to fight for budget policies that are fiscally responsible and protect key programs that help students, seniors, children, veterans and America's working families.

### **BUDGET CUTS**

Unfortunately, the majority in Congress has proposed more tax breaks for the wealthy while cutting back on student loans, Medicaid, child support enforcement and food stamps, among other programs. This strategy is seriously flawed and would be harmful to Americans and Arizonans. Adopting deficit-financed tax cuts while spending six billion dollars a month in Iraq, and as we face a massive reconstruction effort in the Gulf Coast region is particularly misguided.

I am hopeful that we can work out a budget reconciliation bill that will reflect the priorities of all Americans, not just the privileged few, and allow all families to provide for themselves.

### **PRESCRIPTION**

#### **DRUG PLAN**

Enrollment began on Nov. 15 for the Medicare prescription drug plan. I have heard concerns from constituents regarding the confusion this plan has created for the elderly and disabled. I voted against this program because it did not provide adequate benefits and only confused the participants.

At home, I participated in the dedication of the Rio Salado habi-

tat restoration project. I have strongly supported this revitalization plan for the Salt River and have been successful in securing federal funding for the project. The trails and amenities are open to the public during daylight hours, and I would encourage all to take advantage of them.

I hope you will read the updates inside and find them useful.

Sincerely,

Ed Pastor  
Member of Congress

## Health funding discussed

Congressman Ed Pastor recently discussed funding priorities for the National Institutes of Health in a meeting with Carol Barnes, president of the National Society for Neuroscience.

# Congress approves water, education projects for district improvements

President Bush is expected to sign into a law a bill that benefits Phoenix area projects, including the Rio Salado and other flood-control and habitat restoration projects, said U.S. Rep. Ed Pastor.



Pastor was a key negotiator who helped secure funding for the local projects.

"These are all worthy projects that received almost unanimous support in both the House and Senate because they will help meet the water, environmental and education needs of the people of Phoenix," Pastor said. "Phoenix, and Arizona as a whole, reaped many rewards."

The projects were part of the annual energy and water appropriations act.

The bill included **\$8 million** for the **Rio Salado project**. This was the 14th straight year that Pastor secured funding for this significant restoration project.

The bill also included:

- **\$4.5 million** for the **Tres Rios Project**. Tres Rios is a flood control and ecosystem restoration project with incidental water quality and recreation opportunities along the Salt, Gila and Agua Fria rivers.



The project is designed to bring a seven-mile, 1,500-acre section of these rivers back to life by building flood protection and restoring wetlands and riparian habitat.

An additional **\$287,000** was funded for the



**Rep. Pastor discusses issues in Congress with members of the Golden Gate community in Phoenix.**

## **Tres Rios Wetlands Demonstration Project.**

- **\$1 million** for Maricopa Community Colleges for their **Achieving a College Education (ACE) program**. The funding will be used to expand this partnership between community colleges and local high schools that is designed to reduce dropouts among "at-risk" high school students and transition them to community college and university studies. Students in the program are encouraged to enroll in dual credit courses which prepare them for future college success.



"I was pleased that the Congress saw the wisdom in funding these projects. It is important that we continue them because they improve the quality of

our lives," Pastor said.

## **Dates to remember for enrollment in Medicare Prescription Drug Plan**

Seniors are reminded that enrollment for the Medicare prescription drug plan began Nov. 15. One may enroll by calling the company offering the plan that they choose directly, or by calling **1-800-MEDICARE** (1-800-633-4227). Open enrollment ends on May 15, 2006.



# Local transit, economic development projects receive funding boost

Numerous local transportation and economic development projects to benefit the Phoenix area were among those approved by the Congress.

Pastor, who was influential in securing funding support for the projects, said they will help improve residents' quality of life and the economy in the Valley.

The projects included:

- **\$90 million** for the **Central Phoenix/East Valley Light Rail project**. This 20-mile light rail corridor will link central Phoenix, downtown Tempe and downtown Mesa.

- **\$3.25 million** for the **Phoenix International Sky Harbor Airport Taxiway** to help complete the third runway and the reconstruction of the north and south runways from asphalt to concrete.

- **\$1.5 million** to help purchase **25 new clean-burning, alternatively fueled buses** for the Phoenix Metropolitan Area.

- **\$1 million** for a **bus maintenance facility in west Phoenix** that would service 250 buses in the cities of **Phoenix** and

**Glendale**.

- **\$1 million** for a **Community Noise Reduction Program** that provides assistance to residents living in the most noise impacted areas near Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport.

- **\$700,000** for a **pedestrian bridge at Isaac Middle School** in west Phoenix to ensure the safety of students and others at this very hazardous intersection that experiences heavy truck traffic flows.

In a related development, Congress also was expected to approve several local economic development projects in the Housing and Ur-

ban Development - Community Development Fund/Economic Development Initiative.

Those projects included:

- **\$600,000** for the **redevelopment of Nuestro Barrio community**, a low-income and minority neighborhood in Phoenix's Enterprise Community. The project will create close to 125,000 square feet of new development to include commercial office space, small business retail space, a Chicano Cultural Center and a small hotel.

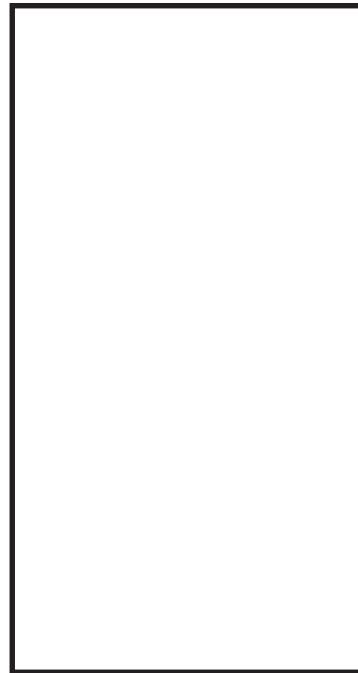
- **\$350,000** for a **Maryvale Branch of the Valley of the Sun YMCA**.

The Maryvale community has not had a YMCA

presence for more than 25 years and such a facility would help address local dropout and education issues.

- **\$250,000** to help cover pre-development costs and site environmental remediation of the **East Washington Fluff Site**, an 11-acre parcel of vacant land at Fifth Street and Buckeye.

The funding also will assist Chicanos Por La Causa, Inc., in acquiring the property for economic development opportunities in the area.



Congressman Pastor's Staff Assistant Sonia Moreno recently greeted Phoenix Mayor Phil Gordon at an event where a mock-up of the light rail vehicle was unveiled. Rep. Pastor is a key supporter of federal funding for light rail.



## Phoenix Police awarded grants

The **Phoenix Police Department** received almost \$7 million in three separate COPS (Community Oriented Policing Services) grants in 2005 that will help the agency improve services. A grant for \$5,983,548 will help it develop effective interoperable communications systems for public safety and emergency service providers. Two additional grants, each for \$493,322, will help the department develop technologies and automated systems to prevent, respond to, and investigate crime.

The **Glendale Police Department** also received a \$975,000 grant this year to hire additional officers.

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

## Rep. Pastor's Military Academy Day for high school students set for Feb. 8

Congressman Ed Pastor's Federal/Military Academy Conference where students can become familiar with the educational opportunities and admissions requirements at the nation's five service academies will be held Feb. 8 at 6 p.m. in the



**Congressman Pastor recently met with members of the military and thanked them for their service to our country. In the photo above, he met with Marine Raul Conchos, 18, of Phoenix, and his mother Laura Cuesta.**

### Art Contest Reminder

High school artists are reminded that Congressman Pastor again will hold his annual Congressional Art Competition in 2006 and the deadline for entries will be March 17, 2006.

All high school artists are encouraged to enter their art work in this competition. The winning piece will be displayed in the U.S. Capitol for a year. The student winner also will be recognized at a ceremony on Capitol Hill. Questions: call 602-256-0551.

auditorium at Cesar Chavez High School, 3921 W. Baseline Road, Phoenix.

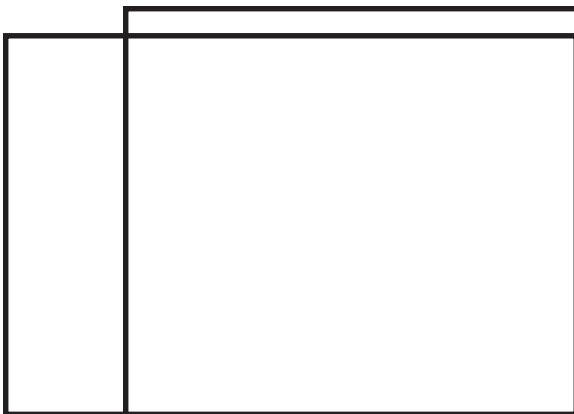
The Academy Conference will feature representatives from West Point, the Air Force, Naval, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine academies.

All students, parents, teachers, counselors and administrators are encouraged to attend the sessions to become acquainted with academy representatives and their admission requirements, Pastor said.

"Federal service and military academies provide excellent educational and career opportunities for our young people," Pastor said. "I want to encourage students to pursue these options. The more parents and educators know about the process of enrolling into the academies, the better guidance they can provide to students."

To attend one of the five service academies, students must be nominated by their U.S. Representative or U.S. Senator. Each year, Pastor nominates numerous students who live in his Congressional District to the service academies. Pastor currently represents the Fourth District, which consists of Phoenix from roughly 44th Street to 83rd Avenue and South Mountain to Bethany Home Road. The district also includes the town of Guadalupe and south Glendale.

**Students' questions about admission to the academies should be referred to Michele Trejo in Pastor's Phoenix Office, (602) 256-0551, or by electronic mail to [michele.trejo@mail.house.gov](mailto:michele.trejo@mail.house.gov).**



**Congressman Pastor recently met with community members in the Garfield Neighborhood in Phoenix to discuss their neighborhood's improvements and federal projects that have helped them revitalize the area.**